

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A videophone terminal for conducting a call with a communicating terminal by communicating voice and sound and an image, comprising:

imaging means for shooting an image;

5 a microphone for converting voice and sound into an electric signal;

display means for displaying a screen image;

a communicating means for communicating a call;

10 storage means for beforehand storing a telephone book table including a telephone number of a communicating terminal and a reply method at call reception with a relationship established therebetween; and

control means for conducting control at reception of a call from a communicating terminal to convert an image and voice and
15 sound to be sent from the videophone terminal to the communicating terminal into data according to a reply method related to a telephone number of the communicating terminal in the telephone book table stored in the storage means.

2. A videophone terminal in accordance with claim 1, wherein:

the telephone book table relates a telephone number of a communicating terminal to a reply method to send a reply as an
5 answering telephone; and

the control means makes at reception of a call, when an answering reply mode to send a reply as an answering telephone is set in advance, a search through the telephone book table and transmits, when the telephone number of the communicating terminal of the call
10 is related to a reply method as an answering telephone, an image and

voice and sound to the communicating terminal according to the reply method.

3. A videophone terminal in accordance with claim 1 or 2, wherein:

the reply method includes a reply using a substitute image expressing a feature of a movement in an image shot by the imaging means by a movement of a character beforehand set; and

the control means includes a substitute image display control section for converting the image shot by the imaging means into the substitute image.

4. A videophone terminal in accordance with claim 3, wherein:

the reply using the substitute image includes a reply using voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image; and

the substitute image display control section converts voice and sound from the microphone into voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image.

5. A videophone terminal in accordance with claim 3, wherein:

the communicating means includes a function to establish connection to a network; and

data is obtained for the character via the network from the communicating means and is stored in the storage means.

6. A videophone terminal in accordance with one of claims 1, 2, 4 and 5, wherein:

the reply method includes a reply using an image shot by the

imaging means and a reply using a still picture;

5 the control means includes:

 camera image display control section for displaying the image shot by the imaging means; and

 a still picture display control section for displaying a still picture using an image stored in the storage means.

7. A videophone terminal in accordance with claim 3, wherein:

 the reply method includes a reply using an image shot by the imaging means and a reply using a still picture;

5 the control means includes:

 camera image display control section for displaying the image shot by the imaging means; and

 a still picture display control section for displaying a still picture using an image stored in the storage means.

8. A screen display setting method for use with a videophone terminal for conducting a call with a communicating terminal by communicating voice and sound and an image including imaging means for shooting an image, a microphone for converting voice and sound into an electric signal, display means for displaying a screen image, and a communicating means for communicating a call, the method comprising:

5 a reply setting step of relating in a telephone book table a telephone number of a communicating terminal to a reply method at reception of a call according to an input from an input means; and

10 a reply step of conducting control at reception of a call from a communicating terminal to convert an image and voice and sound to be sent from the videophone terminal to the communicating terminal into

data according to a reply method related to a telephone number of the
15 communicating terminal in the telephone book table.

9. A screen display setting method according to claim 8,
further comprising:

an answering reply setting step of relating in a telephone
book table a telephone number of a communicating terminal to a reply
5 method of sending a reply as an answering telephone to the
communicating terminal according to an input from an input means;
and

an answering reply step of conducting control, at reception of
a call from a communicating terminal in a state in which the
10 videophone terminal is beforehand set to reply as an answering
telephone, to convert an image and voice and sound to be sent from the
videophone terminal to the communicating terminal into data
according to a reply method as an answering telephone related to a
telephone number of the communicating terminal in the telephone
15 book table.

10. A screen display setting method according to claim 8 or 9,
wherein the reply method includes a reply using a substitute image
expressing a feature of a movement in an image shot by the imaging
means by a movement of a character beforehand set.

11. A screen display setting method according to claim 10,
wherein the reply using the substitute image includes a reply using
voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image.

12. A screen display setting method according to claim 10,
wherein the communicating means includes a function to establish

connection to a network, the method further comprising a character
obtaining step of obtaining data for the character via the network from
5 the communicating means and storing the data in storage means,
the character obtaining step being disposed before the reply
setting step and the answering reply setting step.

13. A videophone system including a plurality of videophone
terminals for conducting a call by communicating voice and sound and
an image between the videophone terminals, each videophone terminal
including imaging means for shooting an image, a microphone for
5 converting voice and sound into an electric signal, display means for
displaying a screen image, and a communicating means for
communicating a call, wherein the videophone terminal includes:

storage means for beforehand storing a telephone book table
including a telephone number of a communicating terminal and a reply
10 method at call reception with a relationship established therebetween;
and

control means for conducting control at reception of a call
from a communicating terminal to convert an image and voice and
sound to be sent from the videophone terminal to the communicating
15 terminal into data according to a reply method related to a telephone
number of the communicating terminal in the telephone book table
stored in the storage means.

14. A videophone system according to claim 13, wherein:

the telephone book table relates a telephone number of a
communicating terminal to a reply method of sending a reply as an
answering telephone; and

5 the control means makes, at reception of a call in a state in
which the videophone terminal is set to reply as an answering

telephone in advance, a search through the telephone book table and transmits, when the telephone number of the communicating terminal of the call is related to a reply method as an answering telephone, an
10 image and voice and sound to the communicating terminal according to the reply method.

15. A videophone system in accordance with claim 13 or 14, wherein:

the reply method includes a reply using a substitute image expressing a feature of a movement in an image shot by the imaging
5 means as a movement of a character beforehand set; and

the control means includes a substitute image display control section for converting the image shot by the imaging means into the substitute image.

16. A videophone system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

the reply using the substitute image includes a reply using voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image; and

5 the substitute image display control section converts voice and sound from the microphone into voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image.

17. A videophone system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

the communicating means includes a function to establish connection to a network; and

5 data is obtained for the character via the network from the communicating means and is stored in the storage means.

18. A videophone system in accordance with one of claims 13, 14, 16 and 17, wherein:

the reply method includes a reply using an image shot by the imaging means and a reply using a still picture;

5 the control means includes:

camera image display control section for displaying the image shot by the imaging means; and

a still picture display control section for displaying a still picture using an image stored in the storage means.

19. A videophone system in accordance with claim 15, wherein:

the reply method includes a reply using an image shot by the imaging means and a reply using a still picture;

5 the control means includes:

camera image display control section for displaying the image shot by the imaging means; and

a still picture display control section for displaying a still picture using an image stored in the storage means.

20. A screen display setting method for use with a videophone system including a plurality of videophone terminals for conducting a call by communicating voice and sound and an image between the videophone terminals, each videophone terminal including imaging
5 means for shooting an image, a microphone for converting voice and sound into an electric signal, display means for displaying a screen image, and a communicating means for communicating a call, the method comprising:

10 a reply setting step of relating, according to an input from an input means of one videophone terminal selected from the videophone

terminals, a telephone number of a communicating terminal to a reply method at reception of a call in a telephone book table by the videophone terminal selected from the videophone terminals; and

15 a reply step of conducting control by the videophone terminal at reception of a call from a communicating terminal to convert an image and voice and sound to be sent from the videophone terminal to the communicating terminal into data according to a reply method related to a telephone number of the communicating terminal in the telephone book table.

21. A screen display setting method according to claim 20, further comprising:

5 an answering reply setting step of relating, according to an input from an input means of one videophone terminal selected from the videophone terminals, in a telephone book table a telephone number of a communicating terminal to a reply method to send a reply as an answering telephone to the communicating terminal by the videophone terminal selected from the videophone terminals; and

10 an answering reply step of conducting by the videophone terminal control, at reception of a call from a communicating terminal in a state in which the videophone terminal is beforehand set to reply as an answering telephone, to convert an image and voice and sound to be sent from the videophone terminal to the communicating terminal into data according to a reply method as an answering telephone
15 related to a telephone number of the communicating terminal in the telephone book table.

22. A screen display setting method according to claim 20 or 21, wherein the reply method includes a reply using a substitute image expressing a feature of a movement in an image shot by the imaging

means by a movement of a character beforehand set.

23. A screen display setting method according to claim 22, wherein the reply using the substitute image includes a reply using voice and sound corresponding to the substitute image.

24. A screen display setting method according to claim 22, wherein the communicating means includes a function to establish connection to a network, the method further comprising a character obtaining step of obtaining data for the character via the network from
5 the communicating means and storing the data in storage means,
the character obtaining step being disposed before the reply setting step and the answering reply setting step.